

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Regular Meeting
November 18, 2010
Newington Town Hall
5:30 P.M.

I. Roll Call

The following members were present: Chairman Bowen, Mrs. Conway, Mr. Block, Mr. Lenares, Mr. Marcinczyk, Mrs. Nasinnyk, Mr. Bottalico and Mr. Nagel. Also present: Town Planner Edmund Meehan.

II. Minutes

October 21, 2010 Regular Meeting – Mrs. Nasinnyk moved that the meeting minutes be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bottalico and approved. Mr. Nagel abstained, not present.

III. Public Participation

NONE

IV. New Business – Subcommittee Reports

A. Land Trust Organization

No report.

B. Open Space Grants and Funding Sources

No report.

C. Potential Open Space Properties Inventory

Ed Meehan submitted the Matrix report for potential open space properties. The Format is based on the Committee's discussion at its October 21st meeting. (See Attached Matrix; dated November 18, 2010)

Mr. Meehan explained the reference to the 2020 POCD strategies are based on the Natural resource plan map that identifies environmental features such as wetlands, flood hazard area, steep slopes.

Mr. Meehan notes that footnotes identify parcels that have an improvement, such as a building included in the Assessor's appraisal 2005 value. Also the Committee should take note that several parcels are listed as potential open space because they abut another vacant parcel that is undeveloped rear portions of deep properties.

The identification of percentage of lot limited by wetlands or steep slopes is subjective and determined by the “gross measurement” of the particular natural resource using GIS software, this was done by Mr. Meehan.

Committee discussed how this matrix information should be used and shared with other boards and Commissions such as the Conservation Commission, Town Plan and Zoning, Land Trust, Town Council. The consensus was to treat the matrix as a draft and spend more time working with this information to develop a strategy direction. As an example, Chairman Bowen noted that from this information the Committee could narrow its focus and draft strategy recommendations for open space such as greenway and Cedar Mountain ridgeline slopes. The Committee’s role is to report these recommendations to the Town Council; this could also be shared with the land trust.

Mr. Block moved that the President of Newington Land Trust receive the Open Space Committee minutes, the purpose is to keep the Trust aware and an active participant in the Town’s open space program. Seconded by Mr. Marcinczyk, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bowen returned to the discussion of setting a strategy that the Committee could use as a work program. For example if the Committee strategy is to promote greenways, the inventory of open space parcels could be “overlaid” on the POCD greenways map and the parcels that are needed to create the greenway reported to Town Council.

Ed Meehan recommended the Committee identify its top three (3) priorities to work on. For example:

Number one would be Cedar Mountain. What parcels are critical to protect the ridgeline.

Number two could be greenways based on wetlands and flood plain protection, Identify key parcels and begin to identify gaps.

Number three might be the protection of vacant parcels between residential and non-residential land uses that results in a permanent buffers for neighborhoods.

Chairman Bowen requested that map information be prepared showing the “greenways” with the matrix parcels layer added to identify critical property. If possible this should be displayed on a large screen. The purpose is to find the important parcels to protect. This same overlay process could be shown for the Cedar Mountain ridgeline. Ed Meehan will work on this for the Committee’s next meeting.

V. Old Business

A. Cedar Mountain Real Estate

NONE

VI. Public Participation

NONE

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Nagel moved the Committee adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Block and approved.

Submitted,

Edmund J. Meehan
Town Planner

Town Clerk
Town Website